CLAIMS

Sub A1

1. Apparatus for establishing communications between a calling station and one or more called stations based on information stored at a called station, at least one called station comprising:

a. a memory storing information in a database;

b. a receiver for receiving a communications request including a query specifying at least one criterion;

d. a comparator for comparing information stored in said database with said at least one criterion, and

e. a transmitter for responding to said communications request when said information stored in said database satisfies said at least one criterion.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a global positioning satellite receiver for storing current location information in said database.

Sub A2

3. The apparatus of claim 2, in which said communications request includes at least one criterion based on location.

4. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:

a proximity detector for providing relative location information about nearby objects based on apparatus location, and a computing device for calculating location information independent of said apparatus location using location information provided by said proximity detector and information provided by said global positioning satellite receiver.

Sub A3

5. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a status detectors for storing information about the status of said apparatus in said database.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, in which said communications request includes at least one criterion based on status.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, in which said database stores information about history of said apparatus.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, in which said communications request includes at least one criterion based on history.

9. The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising a touch-screen display which displays current location information in a moving map display.

Sub A4

10. Apparatus for establishing communications between a calling station and one or more called stations based on information stored in a database at a called station, a calling station comprising:

a. an input device for specifying a query against information stored in said database; and

b. a transmitter for sending a communications request including said query.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising a receiver for receiving a response from a station having a database containing information which satisfies said query.

12. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising:

a global positioning satellite receiver for storing current location information.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising a touch-screen display which displays current location information in a moving map display.

14. The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising:

a receiver for receiving a response from at least one station having a database containing information which satisfies said query, said response including information about the location of said at least one station,

a global positioning satellite receiver for storing location of said apparatus information,

a touch-screen display which displays location of said apparatus information in a moving map display and also information about the location of said at least one station.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, in which said touch screen display initiates a communications request when a

location on said touch screen display displaying information about the location of said at least one station is touched.

16. Apparatus for establishing communications between a calling station and one or more called stations based on information stored at a called station, at least one of said one or more called stations comprising:

a. a computer connected to a bus;

b. a memory connected to said bus, storing information in a database;

c. a receiver connected to said bus for receiving a communications request including a query specifying at least one criterion; and

d. a transmitter connected to said bus,

in which said computer is configured for comparing information stored in said database with said at least one criterion, and for responding to said communications request when said information stored in said database satisfies said at least one criterion.

17. The apparatus of claim 16 installed in a vehicle in which said computer controls vehicle functions and in which an authorized user may preempt control of said

vehicle functions over said receiver when said transmitter responds to said communications request.

18. The apparatus of claim 16 installed in a vehicle having a hands free telephone in which said computer activates said hands free telephone under control of a request received over said receiver when said transmitter responds to said communications request.

Sub A10

19. A method for communications, comprising the steps of:

a. providing an element for performing the step of sending a communications request from an originating station including a query against information stored at individual stations; and

b. providing an element for performing the step of receiving a response from only individual stations at which information stored satisfies said query.

20. The method of claim 19, comprising the additional step of:

providing an element for performing the step of opening a communications link with individual stations from which a response is received.

21. The method of claim 19 in which said query can be against information about location, status or history of individual stations.

22. A system for communicating between an originating station and one or more called stations, comprising:

a. a network for connecting stations;

b. a plurality of stations, at least some of which include a database;

c. a network channel for sending a communications request including a query specifying at least one criterion from said originating station to all stations and for receiving back a response from those stations at which said information stored in said database satisfies said at least one criterion, and

d. a network communications channel for communications between said originating station and those stations at which said information stored in said database satisfies said at least one criterion.

23. The system of claim 22 in which said network is a cellular network.

24. A computer program product comprising:

a. a memory medium, and

b. a computer program stored on said memory medium, said computer program including:

b1. instructions for sending a communications request from an originating station to other stations including a query against information stored at said other stations; and

b2. instructions for receiving a response from only individual stations at which information stored satisfies said query.

25. A computer program product comprising:

a. a memory medium, and

b. a computer program stored on said memory medium, said computer program including instructions for establishing communications between a calling station and one or more called stations based on information stored at a called station.

26. The computer program product of claim 25 in which said information stored at a called station is location information and in which said computer program includes instructions for obtaining location information from a plurality of stations and for displaying said location information on a moving map display.